SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please delete the paragraph at page 5, line 17 to page 5, line 22.

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, line 9 to page 6, line 22 of the specification as follows:

--Preferably the infrared radiation used for this purpose comprises substantial components, which bring about the drying, in the near infrared and in particular is at wavelengths below 1.0 μm. The term "near infrared" is understood to mean the wavelength range between the visible region and 1.4 μm. It is advantageous that only a small amount of energy is contributed to the near infrared by thermal radiation from objects at room temperature. Electromagnetic radiation in the near infrared can thus easily be distinguished from the thermal radiation of nearby objects at room temperature, which are unavoidably present in most situations. Therefore near-infrared radiation can be especially well controlled.--

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, line 22 to page 8, line 20 of the specification as follows:

--In a further development the infrared radiation has a spectral peak of radiation flux density in the near infrared, in particular at wavelengths below 1.0 μm. Preferably the infrared radiation is emitted as thermal radiation from a radiation emitter heated to temperatures of 2500 K or higher, in particular 2900 K or higher. This procedure has several advantages. Firstly, because of the large difference in temperature between the radiation emitter and the surroundings, which are ordinarily at or approximately at room temperature, the radiation emitter cools down rapidly when the heating is turned off. In addition the emitted radiation density, i.e. the radiant energy sent out from the surface of the emitter, is larger at high temperatures than at lower temperatures. Hence the volume of the radiation emitter can be made correspondingly small, so that its overall heat capacity is low. The resulting radiation emitter can be excellently well controlled at the high temperatures mentioned above. Preferably the heating is achieved electrically in the known manner, by causing an electrical current to flow through a radiation emitter constructed as an electric resistor. Electric currents can be inexpensively controlled by known means. --